

JOHN DEERE TRACTORS AND THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

One of the most popular farm tractors in America for nearly 100 years has been the John Deere tractor. It is competitive with many other brands of tractors, but as the saying goes, "*Nothing runs like a Deere.*" In this lesson, we shall make a comparison between "John Deere Tractors and the Church of Christ." We shall compare (1) The FOUNDERS OF BOTH, (2) The UNIQUENESS OF BOTH, (3) The possible BREAKDOWN and the REPAIRING OF BOTH John Deere tractors and the church of Christ.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, a COMPARISON OF THE FOUNDERS.

A. John Deere tractors were developed by a man named "John Deere."

1. John Deere was the **purchaser** of another manufacturing business for over two million dollars.
2. The farm tractors to be manufactured were to be **named** "John Deere", after the founder.
3. Manufacturing the tractors **began** IN 1914.
4. The **place** of their beginning was in the state of IOWA.
5. It's present **headquarters** is in the state of NEBRASKA.

B. Now, the church of Christ in comparison, founded by "Jesus Christ."

1. The church of Christ was **purchased** with Jesus' blood. Acts 20:28
2. The church is identified by terms honoring its founder—Jesus Christ (as the church of God, church of the Lord, body of Christ, the church or the church of Christ. Cf Rom.16:16)
3. The church of Christ **began** about the year 33 A.D., on the first Pentecost day following Jesus' ascension into heaven as recorded in Acts 2.
4. The **place** of it's beginning was the city of JERUSALEM, in the land of Israel.
5. It's present **headquarters** are in HEAVEN, where the Head resides. Col. 1:18; 1 Pet. 3:22

II. 2nd, the UNIQUENESS OF BOTH PRODUCTS.

A. The word "**one**" describes both John Deere tractors and the church of Christ.

1. John Deere only has **one line of tractors**, even though there a thousands and thousands of individual tractors scattered throughout the world.
 - a. All john Deere tractors are "green" in color, with "yellow wheels."
 - b. There are many sizes for varied farm use, and all have the name "John Deere" on each tractor.
2. John Deere tractors do **not consist** of other brands of tractors, such as Farmall, Ford, or Kubota.
 - a. These other tractors have no connection with "John Deere" except that they are tractors, and have different manufacturers.
 - b. They wear different names, and are **not branches** of the John Deere factory, but are in competition to real John Deere tractors.
 - c. It could not be truthfully said, "Well, all tractors are **really** 'John Deere' tractors, they just have different names," for if they WERE, they would all honor John Deere by wearing his name, and furthermore they would all be the same color, and have the same name on them.

B. Likewise, the church of Christ is **“one”**, and has many local congregations in different places throughout the world.

1. It is **not made up of warring divisions** that wear different names, but refuse to call themselves the church “of Christ”, for they are “of men”, of which there are some 35,000 kinds of denominations in the world today.
 - a. These denominations have no connection with the original church of Christ, except they call themselves “churches”, and like to refer to Christ as a “personal savior” who can save by “faith only” or by the so-called “sinner's prayer.”
 - b. They are not “branches” of the church of Christ, and are very much in competition **with** the church of Christ.
 - c. Sometimes they say they are **really** the church of Christ, but if they are they would identify themselves as such.
2. It has **one plan of salvation**: Faith, Repentance, Confession of Faith, and Baptism (or immersion in water). Acts 2:36-38,40,41,47; 1 Cor. 12:13
3. It has **one program of worship**: Preaching, Prayer, Giving, Singing and Communion. Acts 2:42, 47
4. It has **one rulebook** or constitution, the New Testament. John 12:48; Acts 2:42; 2 John 9; 1 Cor. 1:10; Phil. 3:16; John 17:20-21

III. 3rd, both John Deere tractors & the church of Christ can have a breakdown and need Repair.

A. John Deere tractors can have a breakdown and need repair, or have accidents.

1. When this happens, genuine John Deere parts and supplies can be obtained to “restore” them to their former condition.
2. They would not be truly restored to their original state **if** portions of them came from another brand of tractor, or from automobiles.
3. When fully restored, they would have the color and appearance of **original** John Deere tractors.

B. The original church of Christ fell into a breakdown, as foretold by the scripture of the New Testament. Acts 20:28-31; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-3

1. For centuries, the church was rather obscure, as Roman and Greek Catholicism dominated the religious scene.
2. In the 16th century, many religious leaders attempted a **“reform”** movement to get error OUT of Catholicism, but their “protests” resulted in the beginning of separate religious bodies, branded as “Protestants”.
3. Eventually, in the 17th century the **men came out** of both Catholicism and Protestantism, and returned to the “original pattern” of Christ's church as revealed in the New Testament, to **restore** it's existence in the world. Luke 8:10-11; 1 Cor. 1:10

CONCLUSION

I. The Lord is not the author of religious confusion in the world today. 1 Cor. 14:33

A. He wants the church to always follow the pattern of the New Testament to bring glory to Himself. Eph. 3:21

B. All the saved through belief, repentance and baptism are added to the church, and their names are added to the Book of Life.

II. Won't you be a part of His church?

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